Indiana Crop & Weather Report

United States Dept of Agriculture

Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service
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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 18

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Farmers had an excellent week for field activities. Planting of corn advanced at a record early pace for this time of the season, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Corn planting is 4 days ahead of the previous record pace of 8 percent planted established in 1976 and 8 days ahead of the average pace. Precipitation was minimal for the second straight week in most areas of the state. Warm sunny weather along with wind continued to dry out soils during the week, but snow occurred in some of the southern counties early in the week. Farmers are concerned about the lack of rain and the dry soil conditions.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 5.9 **days suitable for fieldwork**. Fifteen percent of the intended **corn** acreage is planted compared with 7 percent for last year and 5 percent for the 5-year average. By area, 9 percent of the corn is planted in the north, 15 percent in the central region and 28 percent in the south. Seeding of oats is virtually complete. Several fields of **soybeans** have been planted. Spreading of fertilizer and spraying of chemicals were in full swing. Forage crops and pastures need rain to stimulate growth and development.

Forty-six percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is **jointed** compared with 48 percent last year and 51 percent for the 5-year average. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 84 percent good to excellent compared with 79 percent last year at this time. Wheat continues to look good, but could use some rain.

Major activities during the week were tillage of soils, nitrogen application, spreading lime, preparing equipment, moving grain to market, ditch and fence row cleaning, hauling manure and taking care of livestock.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 8 percent excellent, 61 percent good, 25 percent fair, 4 percent poor and 2 percent very poor. Livestock are in mostly good condition. **Hay** supplies are rated 2 percent very short, 10 percent short, 80 percent adequate and 8 percent surplus. Lambing is winding down and spring calving continued on cattle operations.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
	Percent			
Corn Planted	15	3	7	5
Winter Wheat Jointed	46	26	48	51

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
			Percent		
Pasture	2	4	25	61	8
Winter Wheat 2004	0	2	14	65	19
Winter Wheat 2003	1	3	17	60	19

SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
		Percent	
Topsoil			
Very Short	8	1	3
Short	23	8	12
Adequate	60	77	70
Surplus	9	14	15
Subsoil			
Very Short	6	2	6
Short	17	7	20
Adequate	70	77	66
Surplus	7	14	8
Days Suitable	5.9	5.5	4.6

CONTACT INFORMATION
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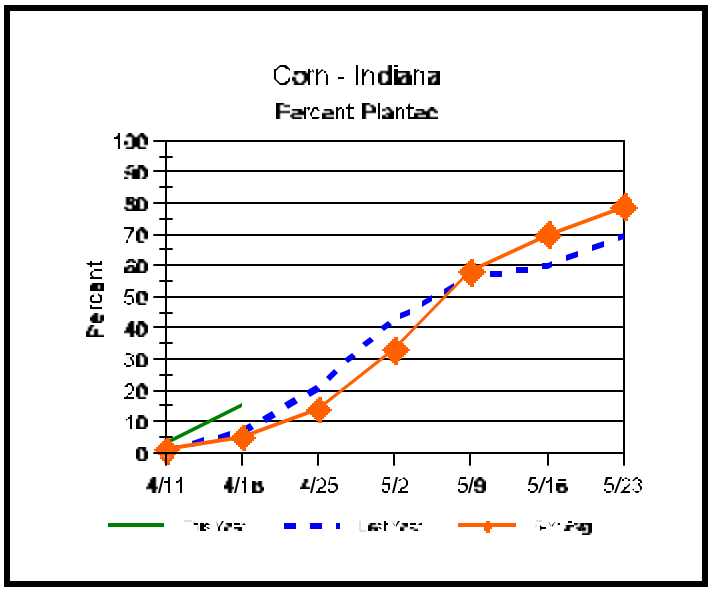
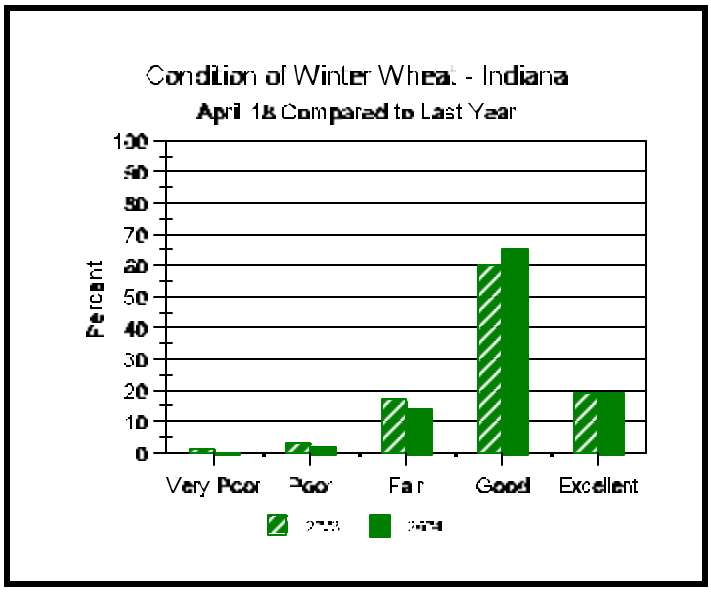
E-Mail Address: nass-in@nass.usda.gov
http://www.nass.usda.gov/in/index.htm

Crop Progress





Other Agricultural Comments And News

Planter Adjustments - A Key Step in Achieving Uniform Stands in Corn

Uneven plant spacing and emergence may reduce yield potential in corn. Seed should be spaced as uniformly as possible within the row to ensure maximum yields and optimal crop performance. Corn plants next to a gap in the row may produce a larger ear or additional ears (if the hybrid has a prolific tendency), compensating to some extent for missing plants. Skips can reduce yield in fields where the intended population is at or below the optimum, while doubles increase yield when populations are less than optimum. Reduced plant stands will yield better if plants are spaced uniformly than if there are large gaps in the row. As a "rule of thumb", yields are reduced an additional 5 percent if there are gaps of 4 to 6 feet in the row and an additional 2 percent for gaps of 1 to 3 feet.

Uneven corn emergence will generally have a greater impact on grain yield than uneven plant spacing. Uneven emergence affects corn performance because competition from larger, early-emerging plants decreases the yield from smaller, later-emerging plants. If the delay in emergence is less than two weeks, replanting increases yields less than 5 percent, regardless of the pattern of unevenness. However, if one-half or more of the plants in the stand emerge three weeks late or later, then replanting may increase yields up to 10 percent. Emergence delays of 10 days or more usually translate to growth stage differences of two leaves or more. When two plants differ by two leaves or more, the younger, smaller plant is more likely to be barren or produce nubbin ears. Weeds also tend to be a greater problem in those areas of a field characterized by skips and gaps in the corn rows, and slow erratic corn emergence.

Corn sometimes emerges unevenly because of environmental conditions beyond the control of growers. However, timely planter servicing and adjustment, as well as appropriate management practices, can help prevent many stand uniformity problems. The following are some tips for improving the uniformity of seed placement during planting.

1. Keep the planting speed within the range specified in the planter's manual.
2. Match the seed grade with the planter plate.
3. Check planters with finger pickups for wear on the back plate and brush (use a feeler gauge to check tension on the fingers, then tighten them correctly).
4. Check for wear on double-disc openers and seed tubes.
5. Make sure the sprocket settings on the planter transmission are correct.
6. Check for worn chains, stiff chain links, and improper tire pressure.
7. Make sure seed drop tubes are clean and clear of any obstructions.

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday April 18, 2004

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation April 1, 2004 thru April 18, 2004				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil Temp	Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days		Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	85	26	53	+1	0.00	0	52	0.00	-2.11	0	58	+7
Valparaiso_AP_I	81	31	53	+4	0.14	1		0.14	-2.23	1	65	+32
Wanatah	84	28	52	+5	0.18	1	53	0.18	-2.10	1	57	+34
Wheatfield	81	28	52	+5	0.99	4		1.70	-0.58	6	56	+32
Winamac	84	30	53	+4	0.10	2		0.10	-2.12	2	60	+26
North Central(2)												
Plymouth	81	30	52	+2	0.14	1		0.19	-2.12	2	53	+14
South_Bend	81	28	54	+6	0.03	1		0.04	-2.30	2	67	+40
Young_America	84	29	53	+4	0.00	0		0.00	-2.04	0	59	+26
Northeast (3)												
Columbia_City	82	31	53	+6	0.00	0		0.01	-2.17	1	51	+29
Fort_Wayne	82	32	54	+5	0.03	1		0.04	-1.98	2	54	+24
West Central (4)												
Greencastle	82	32	52	-1	0.00	0		0.03	-2.13	1	50	-9
Perrysville	85	30	55	+4	0.00	0	53	0.00	-2.32	0	77	+30
Spencer_Ag	82	28	51	-1	0.33	2		0.77	-1.57	4	48	-2
Terre_Haute_AFB	84	33	57	+5	0.00	0		0.10	-2.17	2	74	+13
W_Lafayette_6NW	86	28	55	+6	0.00	0	56	0.00	-2.17	0	75	+40
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	81	33	54	+2	0.00	0		0.11	-2.07	2	73	+19
Greenfield	83	27	51	+0	0.05	2		0.18	-2.18	6	56	+15
Indianapolis_AP	82	30	55	+3	0.00	0		0.20	-1.98	2	81	+27
Indianapolis_SE	82	30	53	+2	0.00	0		0.15	-2.02	2	64	+16
Tipton_Ag	81	30	52	+3	0.00	0		0.02	-2.30	1	47	+21
East Central (6)												
Farmland	82	31	52	+4	0.54	2		0.71	-1.43	5	49	+26
New_Castle	81	28	48	-2	0.09	2		0.16	-2.25	4	35	+9
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	83	34	56	+0	0.56	1		0.63	-1.75	3	97	-6
Freelandville	83	33	54	+0	0.05	1		0.19	-2.04	4	75	+5
Shoals	84	30	53	-1	0.47	1		0.65	-1.74	3	70	+1
Stendal	83	35	55	+1	0.41	1		0.59	-2.03	3	87	+3
Vincennes_5NE	83	32	54	+1	0.56	2	50	0.66	-1.57	4	77	+7
South Central(8)												
Leavenworth	80	38	54	-1	1.16	2		1.41	-1.36	4	71	-2
Oolitic	80	34	52	-1	0.35	2	51	0.69	-1.67	5	54	-4
Tell_City	81	34	55	+0	2.27	3		2.40	-0.48	5	104	+13
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	83	32	52	+2	1.09	2		1.37	-0.86	6	52	+12
Milan_5NE	82	32	52	+2	1.21	2		1.49	-0.74	6	55	+15
Scottsburg	82	33	53	-2	0.64	2		0.98	-1.51	5	65	-5

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

The above weather information is provided by AWIS, Inc.
For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page at
www.awis.com or call toll free at 1-888-798-9955.

8. Clean seed tube sensors if a planter monitor is being used.
9. Make sure coulters and disc openers are aligned.
10. Match the air pressure to the weight of the seed being planted.
11. Make planter adjustments and follow lubricant recommendations when using seed-applied insecticides (e.g., Poncho and Cruiser).

In 2004, as much as 20% or more of the corn acreage in Ohio may be planted with seed-applied insecticides (e.g., Poncho and Cruiser). While these seed insecticides may help reduce stand losses from soil insects, it is critical that corn growers make planter adjustments and follow lubricant recommendations when using these seed-applied insecticides. Unless these precautions are followed, the extra chemical loading on the seed may adversely affect the "plantability" of seed – vacuum planters may underseed and finger pickup planters may overseed. To improve planter accuracy, talc or graphite should be used according to the planter manufacturer's recommendations. With vacuum planters, it will probably be necessary to raise the vacuum to achieve more accurate seed drop.

For more information on planter adjustments to improve stand establishment in corn, consult: "Tips to Reduce Planter Performance Effects on Corn Yield" OSU Extension Fact Sheet AGF-150-01<http://ohioline.osu.edu/agf-fact/0150.html>.

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